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task is too large for you, others may be willing to cooperate and help achieve results.

Following are some suggestions as to how you can do your share in this great and important work of inventorying and stimulating electrical research:

1. Indicate the most important problems in the branch of electrical engineering in which you specialize. These may be problems on which you are working, or suggestions for investigations by others.

2. Give a brief account or at least titles of investigations that you are conducting, or of the research recently done under your supervision. This information will be published for the purpose of bringing together those working on some problem now, and also those who may take it up later.

3. Describe briefly the experimental facilities at your disposal and the kinds of problems for which they are particularly suitable; also other facilities that you may possess, such as a large amount of data on file, a collection of pamphlets on some topic, natural advantages of location, etc.

4. Ask questions, if you have any, or express a desire to get in touch with other investigators on some topic.

5. Give your general views on electrical research and on how to encourage it and make it more productive.

#### A CENSUS OF CHEMISTS

DR. VAN H. MANNING, director of the Bureau of Mines, and Professor Julius Stieglitz, president of the American Chemical Society, have addressed a letter to American chemists asking them to fill in a blank giving information concerning their chemical experience and qualifications. The letter reads:

By request of the Council of National Defense, the Bureau of Mines, in cooperation with the American Chemical Society, will procure a roster of chemists of the United States. Data covering the qualifications, experience and skill of each chemist are desired to determine the line of duty in which he could best serve the country in time of need.

European experience has shown that nothing is more important in time of war or other national emergency than a knowledge of the qualifications and experience of the country's expert technical men. Men whose knowledge was invaluable to the production of munitions ordnance and supplies were killed in the trenches during the first months of the European war. This was due to lack of early information regarding individuals and has

now been remedied in every European country. It is therefore important, especially at present, that this information be available in the United States.

You are accordingly requested, as a patriotic duty, not only to fill out the card which you will receive herewith, but to see that every chemist within your acquaintance receives one and does likewise. Additional cards will be furnished upon request. You will please check only those subjects in which you are expert, especially where you have had actual manufacturing experience. Please return the card promptly, using the enclosed franked envelope. The information received will be carefully classified, carded and indexed. Your prompt response to this matter will be very much appreciated.

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

At the meeting of the National Academy of Sciences, which will be held in Washington on April 16, 17 and 18, the Hale lectures will be given by Professor Edwin G. Conklin, of Princeton University, on "Methods and Causes of Organic Evolution."

THE American Philosophical Society, which will hold its general meeting at Philadelphia on April 12, 13 and 14, has arranged a symposium on aeronautics. Papers will be presented by Professor A. G. Webster, of Clark University; Brigadier General George O. Squier; Dr. W. F. Durand, chairman of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, and Dr. Charles F. Marvin, chief of the U. S. Weather Bureau.

THE twenty-fifth anniversary of the New York Section of the American Chemical Society was celebrated with a dinner and smoker at the Chemists' Club, on March 9, 1917. The opening remarks of Chairman Matthews were followed by addresses by Provost Edgar F. Smith, of the University of Pennsylvania, on "Robert Hare"; Dr. Wm. H. Nichols on "The Early History of the Society," and Dr. E. G. Love on "The First Years of the New York Section." Dr. Charles A. Doremus presented to the Section a large steel engraving of Professor J. W. Draper, first president of the American Chemical Society.

THE David Livingstone gold medal of the American Geographical Society has been conferred on Mr. Theodore Roosevelt in recogni-

tion of his scientific achievement in the field of geography of the southern hemisphere. Mr. Roosevelt addressed the meeting after the presentation.

ON the evening of March 24, at a banquet given for Professor Anton Julius Carlson, fifty of his former pupils who have taken higher degrees under him presented him with a Sigma Xi key jewelled with diamonds and a memorial booklet containing the autographs of all the participants. Professor Carlson has just completed his tenth year as director of mechanical physiology at the University of Chicago.

SIR J. J. THOMSON, Cavendish professor of physics at the University of Cambridge and president of the Royal Society, Sir David Prain, director of Kew Botanical Gardens, and Sir George Beilby, head of the Royal Technical College of Glasgow, have been elected trustees of the Carnegie Trust for Scottish Universities.

WE learn from *Nature* that the following have been elected ordinary fellows of the Royal Society of Edinburgh: G. B. Burnside, Dr. B. Cunningham, T. C. Day, R. W. Dron, Professor A. Gibson, J. Harrison, Professor J. C. Irvine, A. King, Sir Donald Macalister, Reverend H. C. Macpherson, Lieutenant L. W. G. Malcolm, A. E. Maylard, G. F. Merson, F. Phillips, Dr. H. H. Scott, Sir G. A. Smith, Dr. J. Tait, Dr. W. W. Taylor, J. McLean Thompson, W. Thorncroft and Professor D. F. Tovey.

SIR W. E. GARSTIN and Sir G. K. Scott-Moncrieff have been elected honorary members of the British Institution of Civil Engineers.

PROFESSOR C. VERNON Boys has been elected president of the London Physical Society.

DR. CHARLES H. HERTY, editor of the *Journal of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry*, has been elected chairman of the New York Section of the American Chemical Society.

DR. KENNETH TAYLOR, formerly of St. Paul, has been appointed director of the Robert Walton Goelet Research Laboratories which are housed in the Doyen Hospital, Paris.

ACCORDING to *Nature* a letter lately received from Dr. Ragnar Karsten, leader of the

Swedish expedition in Ecuador, is dated El Tena, East Ecuador, October 10, 1916, and states that the expedition was then half-way along the difficult road from Quito to Napo, at which latter place and at Curaray ethnographical studies and collections would be made.

MR. HOWARD F. WEISS has resigned as director of the Forest Products Laboratory of the United States Forest Service to become associated with the C. F. Burgess Laboratories, Madison, Wis.

GEORGE HERBERT PALMER, Alford professor of philosophy, emeritus, in Harvard University, delivered the annual charter day address in the Greek theater of the University of California on March 23, the forty-ninth anniversary of the chartering of the University of California by the state.

THE last of the Harvey Society lectures will be given at the New York Academy of Medicine, New York, on April 7, when Professor William H. Howell, of the Johns Hopkins University, will speak on "The Coagulation of the Blood."

PROFESSOR C. K. LEITH, of the University of Wisconsin, has recently completed a six-weeks' course of lectures on metamorphic geology at the University of Chicago.

AT the meeting of the University of Pennsylvania chapter of Sigma Xi, on March 14, Dr. William Curtis Farabee gave an illustrated address on "Some Myth Makers of the Amazon," based on his recent travels in South America, and Dr. George B. Gordon, director of the University Museum, spoke on "The Museum's Work in Exploration."

DR. DAVID D. WHITNEY, professor of zoology in the University of Nebraska, gave an illustrated lecture on "Sex Determination" before the Science Club of Kansas State Agricultural College on March 20.

DR. FELICE FERRERO, American representative of the Italian press, will give a series of three lectures on the History of Science at Harris Hall, Northwestern University. The lectures will be as follows:

Thursday, March 29. "The Period of Philosophical Speculation. Theories of Evolution and Arithmetic."

Saturday, March 31. "The Shift to Experimental Methods. Aristotle, the Naturalist, the Astronomer and the Physicist."

Monday, April 2. "The Great Lights of Ancient Science: Archimedes and Hipparchus."

THE third Guthrie lecture of the Physical Society, London, was given on March 23, by Professor P. Langevin, on "Molecular Orientation."

JONATHAN RISSE, professor of zoology at Washburn College and previously assistant professor at Beloit College, died on March 23, aged forty-eight years.

DAVID H. BROWNE, a metallurgical engineer living at Montclair, N. J., known for his work in copper smelting, died on March 30, at the age of fifty-three years.

DR. E. P. RAMSAY, curator for many years of the Australian Museum, Sydney, author of works on ornithology, has died at the age of seventy-four years.

THE death is announced, in his ninety-second year, of James Forrest, honorary secretary, and for many years the secretary, of the Institution of Civil Engineers.

GENERAL J. A. L. BASSOT, the distinguished French geodesist, has died at the age of seventy-six years.

AMONG New York State civil service examinations to be held on May 5, are examinations for the position of assistant bacteriologist in the State Department of Health, with salaries of \$900 to \$1,800.

THE annual meetings of the American Association of Pathologists and Bacteriologists and of the American Association of Immunologists is being held in New York City on April 6 and 7, under the presidency of Dr. Richard Weil. The sessions will be held at the New York Academy of Medicine and at the Rockefeller Institute.

THE Peabody Museum of Yale University, which for forty years has housed the Marsh collection of fossils, the Gibbs mineralogical collection, for which citizens of the city and

Yale paid \$20,000 almost a hundred years ago that it might not go to the city of Hartford, and other collections of more recent date, closed its doors to the public last week. With the razing of this old natural history museum will pass out of existence the building that has been the college home of many distinguished members of the Yale faculty, including James Dwight Dana, Othniel Charles Marsh, Addison E. Verrill, Sidney I. Smith and George Jarvis Brush. Visitors will have no opportunity to see the university's collections in natural history until the new museum on the Sage-Pearson plot is finished.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

AT the Charter Day exercises of the University of California on March 23, President Benj. Ide Wheeler announced that the gifts of the previous twelve months amounted to approximately half a million dollars, among the principal items being the \$70,000 given by Professor and Mrs. George Holmen Howison to endow a fellowship in philosophy, scholarships in English, etc.; \$200,000 provided by the late Mrs. Elizabeth Josselyn Boalt to endow instruction in the school of jurisprudence; \$43,493 given by various friends of the university to furnish and equip the new University Hospital in San Francisco, a 215-bed teaching hospital, itself built through gifts of \$586,000 from a number of different benefactors, and \$80,000 expended during the year by the gift of Miss Ellen B. Scripps, for a new thousand-foot concrete pier, a new library and museum building, etc., for the Scripps Institution for Biological Research at La Jolla.

MR. CHARLES W. BINGHAM (Yale, '68), of Cleveland, Ohio, has given \$10,000 to Yale University for the endowment of scholarships to be awarded to graduates of the high schools of Cleveland and its vicinity entering the college or the scientific school.

ALL SOULS COLLEGE, Oxford, has given the university fifteen hundred pounds in aid of the general fund and the like sum for the Bodleian Library.